

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

VOLUME VI. NO. 47.

the Bloomfield Citizen.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL

Local News and Home Reading

ISSUED BY THE

Bloomfield Publishing Company,

AT BLOOMFIELD, ESSEX COUNTY, N. J.

General Post Office at Bloomfield as Second Class

Matter.

15 Broad St., near the Post Office.

Subscription \$1.00 per year.

50 cents for 6 months.

25 cents for 3 months.

12 cents for 1 month.

5 cents for 1 week.

25 cents per issue in advance.

8. MORRIS HULIN, Publisher.

Deadly Dynamite and Death-dealing Miasma.

East Orange Corporative Culpability.

for about March first last, there was

involved at the rear of the residence of

J. W. Arrowsmith a "magazine" containing a quantity of dynamite. This magazine was the property of the East Orange Sewage Works, and had been placed there some months previously. Fearing that something of a dangerous nature might have been stored there the residents in the vicinity kept a strict watch. It was customary for an Italian to come to the magazine, wait around for a while, assure himself that no one was near, then unlock the double doors quickly, take out a package, lock up again, and hurry away. One day a man named Hall found an Italian in the magazine and reported that there was a great quantity of high explosives therein. Mr. Arrowsmith, whose house is only about 200 feet from the magazine was alarmed because of the close proximity of two old shanties which were daily fearing would be fired by giddy boys. (One of these shanties, stood only about thirty feet from the magazine, was fired by either tramps or boys Tuesday evening, 19th) Mr. Arrowsmith having a sick family and apprehending the imminent danger to which probably he but the residents for blocks around would be exposed, informed the Township Committee of Bloomfield (for our magazine was in Bloomfield Township of the undoubtedly criminal action of the East Orange Sewage Works in placing a magazine and keeping it there for the jeopardy of hundreds of men and thousands of dollars worth of property. The Counsel for the Committee, Mr. Richards, directed Mr. Arrowsmith to see Mr. Baxter, the Health Inspector. Before seeing Mr. Baxter, however, Mr. Arrowsmith went to Mr. Richard Coyle of East Orange, Chairman of the Sewage Committee, and asked him to have all explosives removed. Mr. Coyle declared all knowledge of any storage of that character therein, and ridiculed such a plan, though admitting that "there had been gun powder kept there" might be a few fuses there now, etc.

Mr. Arrowsmith thereupon asked for the keys, that he and his neighbors might be satisfied. Mr. Coyle referred him to the engineer at the Sewage Works. Not only the Engineer, Mr. Crane (who is Superintendent Bassett's assistant) disavowed any knowledge of the keys or of the alleged explosives. Thus lest any of the contents of the magazine should be removed, a watch was kept on the magazine. On the next morning Mr. Baxter confronted both Mr. Coyle and Superintendent Bassett at the Disposal Works and inquired as to the contents of the magazine. Mr. Bassett admitted that was a large quantity of explosives therein.

Being accused by Mr. Arrowsmith of carelessness, if not criminality, he replied that it had been sold to a New York City party and would soon be removed before sundown. There were nearly twenty boxes of from 40 to 50 pounds each. It was taken that afternoon to the Disposal Works building, but people thereabout, headed by Mr. Alfred Hibbins, raised the question, and it was removed on Saturday last to O'Rourke's Quarry on the Mountain last to O'Rourke's Quarry on the Mountain.

This whole matter only emphasizes the possibility of encroachment of one town upon another only the rights, but the life and property of another. No more fitting example of this condition of affairs can be had than the present Sewage System of East Orange. Let us see—the East Orange Sewage System has now but about 600 connections and in order to handle the present amount of sewerage, it is either impracticable or impossible to pass the amount that comes through the works. At all events this sewerage is carried off in barrels and what not, in order to get away with it. A sum of seven fifth covers acres of ground lying in Bloomfield Township. It is not inconsistent to suppose that every square inch of this foul sediment contains hundreds of millions of disease in hundreds of thousands of Bloomfield citizens; that is saying nothing of the stench coming from the "works" proper. If any person, having formed a favorable opinion from a visit to the "works" in the day time, will only walk along any of the adjacent streets at night during a dense atmosphere with a fire to windward—or in any kind of atmosphere between the early morning hours of 12 to 4 o'clock, an undoubtedly cause for complaint will be manifest. In fact such a survey would evidence the most obtrusive that there is more than sufficient reason why residents in the vicinity must close their windows even in the hottest summer nights or breathe death inviting miasma.

Now all this with only 600 connections,

what must we anticipate when East Orange has need of 6,000 connections which must be ere long? Or when Orange

BLOOMFIELD, N. J., SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1889.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

may ask the privilege of using East Orange Sewage Works in order to dispose of its sewerage? In the face of this whole and abominable and exacerbating outlook, we are also told that the subsoil drainage of the sewage plant is so silted up and useless as to compel an entire digging-up and relaying. Thus must Bloomfield citizens not only endure the stench and consequent sickness of the East Orange Works, but must without a murmur again expose the health of themselves and families to an upheaval of the old "mill pond" with its many germs of disease, supposed to have been buried forever.

Our Lively School Meeting.

Ladies Initiated—Charges that were Voted Down—Watseassing Well Satified.

The meeting last Tuesday night was far the biggest and liveliest school meeting Bloomfield has experienced since the election of ten years ago, when a Board was chosen whose views were radical upon the question of authority as vested respectively in the County Superintendent and Bloomfield Board of Trustees. Which of these should dictate the "school policy" was decided then by an election that defeated a set of trustees who in past had been willing that the "office" of County Superintendent should be unduly "magnified," happen what might to the true interests of the district. A board was elected that believed otherwise, and such a board has been in power ever since. A school principal was appointed, and has been retained, who does not seem to succeed at all as a magnifico of officialdom, albeit the scholars "like him" and the people appreciate him as an educator. Last Monday night the trial of the Trustees and their Principal before a Bloomfield jury came off. The result—193 to 29—ought to finally settle the question as to the immediate past and future "school policy," since it unmistakably indicates that the citizens of Bloomfield consider themselves fully qualified to manage their school affairs independent of outside hindrance.

But this is not reporting the school meeting, which those who were not there will want to know all about. By eight o'clock the room was crowded, and with the "legal voters" who took seats on the south side was a very respectable minority of ladies. They all came from progressive Watseassing, with the patriotic and altogether legal if novel device of exercising their right of suffrage to the end that that part of the town might have better school accommodations.

District Clerk Baldwin, in calling the meeting to order, referred to the presence of ladies for the first time, and gave this "new departure" a cordial approval. The organization was effected by the election of Mr. J. F. Folsom to act as chairman and Mr. S. M. Hull as secretary.

Thus far the proceedings were marked by entire serenity, but when Mr. Halfpenny moved that the first business in order be the selection of the school, it was evident that this "new departure" had restored to the Berkley School enlargement, then a "rustling of the breeze" that tokened at least change of temper and opinion. An amendment was speedily offered that the election of Trustees be first disposed of, and County Superintendent Davis in this juncture arose and said the election of Trustees might turn upon the report which he hoped would be made of the present condition of the school. His speech was in effect an arraignment of the School Board.

Mr. Davis then nominated for Trustee Rev. Dr. Stibbert, and somebody else named Dr. C. H. Bailey. These names were upon a printed slip that had been distributed, and represented the opposition to the present school policy. Tickets bearing the names of Messrs. Oakes and Wm. A. Baldwin were also in circulation, and those Baldwin being formally put in nomination, the issue was joined.

Before the meeting had made ready to vote, Mr. Halsey M. Barrett arose and said that in order to decide just which of these tickets to vote, he would like to ask of Mr. Davis why he nominated Dr. Stibbert, and what Messrs. Oakes and Wm. A. Baldwin had done, that now he wanted them turned over.

Mr. Davis with no hesitation stated it as his belief that their policy was injurious to the school. The Principal of the school was made a target for attack, but the specifications given struck the audience in a much less serious way than the same were regarded by the County Superintendent. They could not see it in a serious, but rather a humorous light, that a Principal should be "fired out" because he would not "pass the time of day" whenever he chanced to meet this one or that one on the road. This appeared to be the burden of the charges preferred.

Mr. Barrett said in reply that this personal issue in regard to Mr. Dunbar was one that if it needed any consideration, should not be brought in and sprung upon this meeting.

Mr. Stibbert spoke indignantly of the

unfeeling Bloomfield citizens; that

is saying nothing of the stench coming

from the "works" proper. If any person,

having formed a favorable opinion from a

visit to the "works" in the day time, will

only walk along any of the adjacent

streets at night during a dense atmosphere

with a fire to windward—or in any

kind of atmosphere between the early

morning hours of 12 to 4 o'clock, an un-

denied cause for complaint will be

manifest. In fact such a survey would

evidence the most obtrusive that there is

more than sufficient reason why residents

in the vicinity must close their windows

even in the hottest summer nights or

breathe death inviting miasma.

Now all this with only 600 connections,

what must we anticipate when East

Orange has need of 6,000 connections

which must be ere long? Or when Orange

the County Superintendent said that as he understood Mr. Baldwin to say that the school Principal had handed in his resignation, that was sufficient, and he was now ready to vote for Messrs. Oakes and Baldwin, and asked to withdraw his nomination of Dr. Stibbert. Mr. Baldwin took occasion promptly and earnestly to disabuse the County Superintendent's mind of any such thing as Mr. Dunbar proposing to resign. Dr. Stibbert himself addressed the meeting and also withdrew his name.

The vote upon the three candidates remaining in the field resulted as follows: Thos. Oakes, 193; Wm. A. Baldwin, 181; Dr. C. H. Bailey, 29.

A resolution was then adopted that Mr. Davis be requested to make in writing to the Trustees any charges he may have against Mr. Dunbar and that the Trustees take action in the matter.

The Berkley School enlargement plans were then taken up. Trustees Edgerly making a statement of their urgent need of adoption.

A resolution was offered, that the school building be enlarged in accordance with plans presented, or modifications thereof, at an expense of not more than \$9,000, and that the property be mortgaged for that amount.

Mr. Jos. K. Oakes criticized the plans, which he had seen and estimated upon. There were many objections to them, which he pointed out.

Mr. Jas. C. Beach doubted the legality of taking action to raise money, as it was not specifically called for in the meeting.

Mr. Pilch then offered a substitute to cover both objections, that the Trustees direct to prepare such further plans, as they may deem necessary, the same to be submitted to a future meeting with the amount of money required.

This was agreed to and the meeting adjourned.

Gheel, the City of the Insane.

In some of the eastern states legislation is sought that will place all insane persons directly in state asylums and take them out of county poorhouses and unsupervised private establishments. Abuses have been discovered in their treatment that puts civilization to the blush.

The western states have many of them already passed such a law. But no state of the Union has as yet fully adopted the system in vogue in Gheel, Belgium. The plan has been in use there for centuries with most favorable results.

Gheel is five miles from Brussels. The central idea of the treatment is that the lunatic shall be allowed the utmost liberty consistent with safety. None are shut up in cells except the dangerous patients. These are kept in a building together. The others are allowed to roam absolutely at large. They move freely hither and thither, unconsciously to themselves watched by those who are responsible for them.

There is no huge building in which the harmless lunatics are herded together. They are boarded and lodged in private families, separately, one to a family. There are no sane persons at Gheel except those who take care of the insane. In accordance with a metaphysical idea of the fitness of things, the diseased brain is surrounded with objects that represent the serious occupation of its days.

Thus a demented tailor is placed in the house of a sane tailor. He sees the familiar instruments of his trade. He amuses himself with work when will. To the crazy artist are given paints and brushes and he is allowed to produce wild phantasms on canvas at will. Formulated, the idea would be: "Let the sick mind play at the trade at which it worked in health." From the time when it was an umbrella large enough to shelter two men. In the historic painting the sense of the ludicrous will struggle with the pathos of the situation, as the beholder gazes on the picture of two stout men beneath one umbrella, the rain trickling down both their sad necks. While the smaller man reads grandly from his damp manuscript the words: "Let us exalt patriotism and moderate our party contentions."

There are 1,600 patients at Gheel. It is called the City of the Insane. The absence of violence or noisy demonstrations on the part of the patients is marked.

An establishment combining the Gheel method and the large asylum method is to be found at Alt-Scherlitz, in Saxon Prussia. The officers live in a central building, around which is grouped a village of houses for the insane. Each house contains thirty to forty patients. The plan works well.

The institution at Alt-Scherlitz is the model on which the new farm is for the insane at Central Islip, Long Island, is founded. A farm of 1,000 acres has been bought by the city of New York. Here harmless patients from the overflowing cells of Ward's Island are to be brought and turned into the open air and sunshine. So far as possible, their services will be utilized in doing the farm labor. Several hundred patients are already at work preparing the farm for occupancy. Thus civilization seems certain, if slowly, emerging from the horrors of the past in the treatment of the insane.

Mr. Pilch with no hesitation stated it as his belief that their policy was injurious to the school.

The Principal of the school was made a target for attack, but the specifications given struck the audience in a much less serious way than the same were regarded by the County Superintendent. They could not see it in a serious, but rather a humorous light, that a Principal should be "fired out" because he would not "pass the time of day" whenever he chanced to meet this one or that one on the road.

This appeared to be the burden of the charges preferred.

Mr. Barrett said in reply that this personal issue in regard to Mr. Dunbar was one that if it needed any consideration,

should not be brought in and sprung upon this meeting.

Mr. Stibbert spoke indignantly of the

unfeeling Bloomfield citizens; that

is saying nothing of the stench coming

from the "works" proper. If any person,

having formed a favorable opinion from a

visit to the "works" in the day time, will

only walk along any of the adjacent

streets at night during a dense atmosphere

with a fire to windward—or in any

kind of atmosphere between the early

morning hours of 12 to 4 o'clock, an un-

denied cause for complaint will be

manifest. In fact such a survey would

evidence the most obtrusive that there is

more than sufficient reason why residents

in the vicinity must close their windows

even in the hottest summer nights or

breathe death inviting miasma.

Now all this with only 600 connections,

what must we anticipate when East

Orange has need of 6,000 connections

which must be ere long? Or when Orange

but growing party. All parties favor freer trade relations with the United States.

Professor Schurman undertakes to show that by the opening of her Pacific railroad and the northwest, Canada has it in her power to become a greater nation than the United States. Her area exceeds that of the United States by 50,000 square miles. Her soil, climate, is richer than ours. At present her population is growing as fast as Dr. Johnson declared that of the United States, which he distanced, did. "They multiply," said Dr. Johnson, "with the most rapid increase of our own rattlesnakes."

The Canadian debt is \$225,000,000, most

of which has been incurred, not in wars,

but in internal improvements.

It will be extinguished by the sale of public lands, says Professor Schurman,